

# LSA Dogwood: legacy of support to 1 AD, Iraq

By Capt. Patricia Weinstein and Maj. William McCoy,  
DISCOM staff

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- Iraqi guards with AK 47 assault rifles stood by watching the 1st Armored Division Support Command soldiers as they mounted their vehicles for one last combat convoy along the supply routes that led from Logistics Support Area Dogwood to Baghdad International Airport.

LSA Dogwood's mission ended in December 2003. It was the rugged home to the division's support base for eight months.

DISCOM deployed into Iraq in May and co-located at the LSA with the 3rd Infantry Division DISCOM. The 3rd had planted itself on the edge of the Euphrates River southwest of Baghdad. By virtue of the location, the Iron DISCOM assumed its support mission from 3rd Infantry Division in place at Dogwood and remained there until its closing.

LSA Dogwood presented innumerable challenges to protection and sustainment of its forces while completing its support mission. While tasked to support operations from 35 kilometers southwest of Baghdad, DISCOM soldiers had to survive the harsh environment.

Severe weather changes, storms, and the unconventional nature of the enemy's threat necessitated site improvements and increased force protection measures.

Division leaders decided to move DISCOM and the 123rd Main Support Battalion to the airport during the summer.

Combat convoy operations along ASR Sue and Tampa, leading to Baghdad, encountered over 150 different attacks including small arms, improvised explosive devices and rocket propelled grenades during daily supply runs.

It was not uncommon for the unit's Military Police detachment to discover 155mm artillery rounds daisy-chained together with remote detonation devices. Convoys were ambushed during daylight and darkness.

The LSA was also subject to enemy attack. An estimated 62 enemy rounds landed within the base.

Two soldiers were killed during the eight months of logistical operations.

While enemy fire was not always accurate, their activity and tactics were effective. Concrete bunkers were critical for protection.

Dogwood endured several attacks before receiving "Firefinder" radar and a platoon of Paladin Howitzers. Once in place, soldiers were able to return fire and the LSA operated a firebase while performing its logistical mission.

Despite the hardships of the terrain and climate and constant enemy activity, DISCOM continued to improve life on Dogwood by constructing a gym, a dining facility, and a post exchange. DISCOM soldiers enjoyed evening concerts by the 1AD jazz band and other soldier bands.

DISCOM was also actively involved in the mission to rebuild Iraq and improve the quality of life for the people in the Euphrates river valley. Locally, DISCOM Civil Affairs Teams labored in the Jarf Al Sakhar area to win the hearts and minds of the local population.



**A class of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps recruits arrives for training at Logistics Support Area (LSA) Dogwood for training. In addition to its logics support mission, LSA Dogwood was the site of the first ICDC academy in Iraq. Photo by Sgt. Christopher Stanis, 1 AD PAO.**

Daily interaction between the CA Team and the local community provided the opportunity for the local business people to sell their goods and for soldiers to learn Arabic customs while providing community services like schools, potable water stations, and a medical clinic.

DISCOM also stood up the first Iraqi Civil Defense Corps Training Academy training more than 2,000 guardsmen.

When the time came to close, soldiers worked to return the LSA in better condition than they received it.

There were several acres of raw materials, machinery and buildings that belonged to the Ministry of Oil and the Ministry of Minerals and Industry. Several weeks of manual labor took apart tents, bunkers, concertina wire, barriers, and guard points. Soldiers collected refuse and disposed of hazardous materials.

Once the work was completed and inspected, representatives of the Ministry of Oil and Ministry of Minerals and Industry came to sign for the land.

Security was the main concern for the Ministry of Oil official. The ministry hired local residents to provide security to the base.

DISCOM had a very positive impact on the welfare of the Iraqi people and the restructuring of Iraq. Community residents presented the DISCOM commander with expressions of gratitude for the unit's efforts in the area.

The efforts of DISCOM soldiers will be remembered for years to come in the Euphrates River valley area near Dogwood. The motivation and resources of the DISCOM have influenced the Iraqi people to continue progress in their communities and restore their lives, free from oppression and fear.

The soldiers of the DISCOM also learned something of their own tenacity and resilience in fighting and surviving some of the toughest times of their lives.

## **NEWS**

### **Baghdad Car Bombing Kills Up to 46 Iraqis**

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A suicide attacker blew up a car packed with explosives in a crowd of hundreds of Iraqis waiting outside a Baghdad army recruiting center Wednesday, killing up to 46 people in the second bombing in two days targeting Iraqis working with the U.S.-led coalition.

The attack - a day after a suicide bombing against a police station south of the capital killed up to 53 people - backed threats that insurgents would step up violence to disrupt the planned June 30 handover of power to the Iraqis.

### **Greenspan Cites Impressive Economic Gains**

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Wednesday "impressive gains" in the U.S. economy since last summer should lead to improvements in the lagging jobs market, but warned that soaring budget deficits pose a risk to longer-term business prospects.

In delivering the Fed's monetary report to Congress, Greenspan repeated the central bank's recent pledge to be "patient" in keeping interest rates at a 45-year low to ensure that the economic rebound takes hold.

### **Bush Vague on Gay Marriage Amendment**

WASHINGTON (AP) - The White House refused to commit President Bush on Wednesday to supporting a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages, although conservative groups say they already have received high-level assurances that he will take that step.

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the administration was closely watching events in Massachusetts, where state lawmakers are on the verge of voting on a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriages.

### **Kerry Romps in South; Clark Dropping Out**

WASHINGTON (AP) - John Kerry's twin Southern victories left his rivals' candidacies in distress Wednesday, with Wesley Clark ending his presidential campaign and the remaining candidates for the Democratic nomination desperately trying to revive their bids in Wisconsin.

Howard Dean asked voters in the state's primary Tuesday to stand up against Kerry and other Washington insiders who he said are trying to derail his candidacy.

### **Spokesman Defends Bush's Military Service**

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush's spokesman said Wednesday that Democrats who continue to demand more proof that the president reported for National Guard duty in Alabama are "trolling for trash."

Bush said in a television interview over the weekend that he would be willing to open up his entire military file, and would "absolutely" be willing to authorize the release of anything that would settle the controversy over his service in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War.

## ***In other news...***

### **FCC Chief Calls Super Bowl Show 'New Low'**

By JONATHAN D. SALANT, Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) -- Janet Jackson's Super Bowl exposure was "a new low for prime-time television," the government's chief broadcast regulator told lawmakers Wednesday.

The Super Bowl halftime show featured a duet by Jackson and Justin Timberlake that ended with Timberlake tearing off part of Jackson's top and exposing her right breast to 90 million TV viewers. The singers said the incident was an accident and have apologized, but it has fueled calls for the government to pay more attention to what goes out on the nation's airwaves.

The Federal Communications Commission has received more than 200,000 complaints about the halftime show.

"The now infamous display during the Super Bowl halftime show, which represented a new low in prime-time television, is just the latest example in a growing list of deplorable incidents over the nation's airwaves," FCC Chairman Michael Powell told the Senate Commerce Committee.

Powell was joined by the four other FCC commissioners, all of whom have called for tougher penalties against broadcasters who violated indecency laws.

Powell told lawmakers the commission has aggressively gone after violators and would start doing more, including fining broadcasters for each incident rather than each program, and revoking licenses of some serial violators.

And he said he has asked broadcasters and cable operators to take steps to curb indecent and other inappropriate programming.

"Action must be taken by the entire television and radio industry to heed the public's outcry and take affirmative steps to curb the race to the bottom," Powell said. "This industry simply must help clean up its own room."

Before the commissioners arrived, the House panel was to hear from Paul Tagliabue, commissioner of the National Football League; and Mel Karmazin, president of Viacom Inc., owner of both CBS, which aired the halftime show, and MTV, which produced it.

Tagliabue said the NFL should have done more to ensure the program was suitable for a prime-time audience.

Last month, the FCC proposed a record \$755,000 fine against Clear Channel Communications for the "Bubba the Love Sponge" program aired on four of its Florida outlets.

Legislation to increase the fines for indecency from \$27,500 per incident to \$275,000 has been introduced in both houses of Congress.

"CBS gave everyone on the FCC, everyone in Congress, every parents' organization, every parent a slap in the face and said, 'Go to hell,'" said L. Brent Bozell III, president of the Parents Television Council.

"They knew that this was beneath the standards, including CBS running some lewd and crude commercials during the Super Bowl," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas. "Everybody has got egg on their face."

While criticizing Viacom, Congress last month voted to allow the company to own more television stations. Bowing to a veto threat from President Bush, lawmakers agreed to let companies like Viacom to own television stations reaching 39 percent of the viewing public, rather than 35 percent.

The FCC says it has stepped up enforcement of indecency rules. But the agency's enforcement bureau last December declined to fine NBC for airing an expletive uttered by rock star Bono during the 2003 Golden Globe Awards show. The commission is considering whether to overrule the bureau in that case.

### **Thought for the day...**

I hope I shall always possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man.

--George Washington

## ***Today in History...***

### **February 12, 1941 Rommel in Africa**

(Historychannel.com) On this day, German General Erwin Rommel arrives in Tripoli, Libya, with the newly formed Afrika Korps, to reinforce the beleaguered Italians' position.

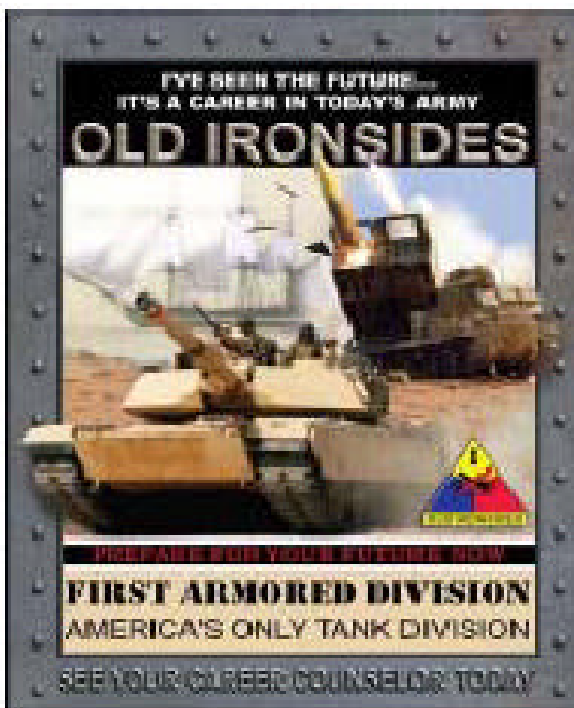
In January 1941, Adolf Hitler established the Afrika Korps for the explicit purpose of helping his Italian Axis partner maintain territorial gains in North Africa. "[F]or strategic, political, and psychological reasons, Germany must assist Italy in Africa," the Fuhrer declared. The British had been delivering devastating blows to the Italians; in three months they pushed the Italians out of Egypt while wounding or killing 20,000 Italian soldiers and taking another 130,000 prisoner.

Having commanded a panzer division in Germany's successful French and Low Countries' campaigns, General Rommel was dispatched to Libya along with the new Afrika Korps to take control of the deteriorating situation. Until that time, Italian General Ettore Bastico was the overall commander of the Axis forces in North Africa--which included a German panzer division and the Italian armored division. Rommel was meant to command only his Afrika Korps and an Italian corps in Libya, but he wound up running the entire North African campaign.

The German soldiers of the Afrika Korps found adapting to the desert climate initially difficult; Rommel found commanding his Italian troops, who had been used to an Italian commander, difficult as well.

When Hitler, preoccupied with his plans for his Soviet invasion, finally gave the go-ahead for an offensive against British positions in Egypt, Rommel's forces were stopped dead in their tracks and then forced to retreat.

In the famous battle of El Alamein, the outmanned British Eighth Army--beginning in October 23, 1942--surprised the German commander with its brute resolve, and pushed him and his Afrika Korps back across and out of North Africa. (Ironically, the Arabs celebrated Rommel, called "the Desert Fox," as a liberator from British imperialism.) Retreat followed retreat, and Rommel finally withdrew from North Africa entirely and returned to Europe in March of 1943, leaving the Afrika Korps in other hands.



### **Reenlistment Bonus Still Available – Time is running out**

The Army keeps rewarding soldiers with cash for reenlisting while deployed. Task Force 1st Armored Division soldiers with less than 10 years of service can earn from \$5,000 to \$10,000 when they reenlist. Soldiers must reenlist for 36 months. Other factors that will determine the bonus amount include years of service and current pay grade.

Soldiers currently deployed to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan are eligible for a reenlistment bonus (lump sum tax free) because of the area of operation.

However, once he or she steps on the plane to home station the soldier is no longer eligible for the bonus.

For more information, contact your career counselor:

- Command Career Counselor: SGM James Jaranowski, 551-9405
- Retention Operations NCO: MSG Gary Schoolfield, 551-9405
- 1st Brigade: SFC Burke, Martyrs' Monument, 550-7027
- 2nd Brigade: SSG Gibson, Presidential Palace, 551-2010
- 4th Brigade: MSG Wolfe, 551-6620
- DIVARTY: SFC Hilton, 551-7030
- DIVENG: MSG Collier, 551-6131
- DISCOM SFC Casnave, 551-9405
- Division Troops: SFC Nagle, 551-9405

# The Old Ironsides Report: The last page February 12, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2004				As of: Wednesday, February 11, 2004 2:17:12 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			THE WEST WING :- NIGHT FIVE	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	00:00
00:30				JUDGE JUDY		00:30
01:00		HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - OUR LANGUAGE, 1924-1925	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	01:00
01:25				GUIDING LIGHT		01:25
01:30	SPORTSCENTER	ESPNEWS			NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	01:30
02:00		HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - THE TRUE WELCOME, 1929-1934		LARRY KING LIVE	02:00
02:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		02:13
02:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS				02:30
03:00	BALLROOM BOXING	SESAME STREET	HORATIO HORNBLOWER (01', YR. 1&2) : - THE DUEL	DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS : - ROBO ROLLY/ SPLISHING & SPLASHING	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	03:00
03:30				HEY ARNOLD! : - DANGEROUS LUMBER/ MR. HYUNH GOES COUNTRY		03:30
04:00	SPORTSCENTER	BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE : - THE WAY I FEEL TODAY		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	PAULA ZAHN NOW	04:00
04:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - SNAKE HUNT		04:30
05:00	NHL - SAN JOSE SHARKS @ DETROIT RED WINGS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	ROCKET POWER : - TWISTING AWAY/ SPOT REMOVER	JEOPARDY!	NIGHTLINE	05:00
05:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	HEADLINE NEWS	AIR FORCE TV NEWS	05:30
05:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW				05:46
05:52				PACIFIC REPORT		05:52
06:00			THE SIMPSONS : - THE CREPES OF WRATH	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	06:00
06:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - THE JUICER	HEADLINE NEWS		06:30
06:35		GUIDING LIGHT				06:35
06:52				PACIFIC REPORT		06:52
07:00			AMERICAN IDOL	FRIENDS : - THE ONE AFTER JOEY AND RACHEL KISS	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	07:00
07:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL				07:17
07:30	SPORTSCENTER		MY WIFE AND KIDS : - GRASSY KNOLL			07:30
07:35				GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - ABOUT A PLOY		07:35
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	THE WEST WING :- NIGHT FIVE	REEL TIME	60 MINUTES II	08:00
08:10				THE BACHELORETTE II		08:10
08:30	NBA - LOS ANGELES LAKERS @ HOUSTON ROCKETS	JUDGE JUDY				08:30
09:00		TODAY	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - OUR LANGUAGE, 1924-1925		GOOD MORNING AMERICA	09:00
09:05				E.R. : - NOW WHAT?		09:05
10:00			KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - THE TRUE WELCOME, 1929-1934	HEADLINE NEWS		10:00
10:22				PACIFIC REPORT		10:22
10:30	SPORTSCENTER			TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		10:30
11:00		DISNEY'S 101 DALMATIONS : - ROBO ROLLY/ SPLISHING & SPLASHING	HORATIO HORNBLOWER (01', YR. 1&2) : - THE DUEL		HEADLINE NEWS	11:00
11:30	PBR BULL RIDING - TAMPA	HEY ARNOLD! : - DANGEROUS LUMBER/ MR. HYUNH GOES COUNTRY		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	11:30
11:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	11:45
12:00		POKEMON: JOHTO LEAGUE CHAMPIONS			THE EARLY SHOW	12:00
12:30		JACKIE CHAN ADVENTURES (TV-7): - SNAKE HUNT		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		12:30
13:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	ROCKET POWER : - TWISTING AWAY/ SPOT REMOVER	OUT OF AFRICA		13:00
13:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS			13:30
14:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - THE CREPES OF WRATH		FOX NEWS LIVE	14:00
14:30	ESPNEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW : - THE JUICER			14:30
15:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - GATORADE 125S, RACES 1 & 2	FRIENDS : - THE ONE AFTER JOEY AND RACHEL KISS	AMERICAN IDOL		60 MINUTES II	15:00
15:30			MY WIFE AND KIDS : - GRASSY KNOLL			15:30
15:35		GOOD MORNING MIAMI : - ABOUT A PLOY				15:35
16:00		REEL TIME	THE WEST WING :- NIGHT FIVE		FOX NEWS LIVE	16:00
16:10		THE BACHELORETTE II				16:10
16:30				CINEMA SECRETS : - DESTRUCTIVE FORCES		16:30
17:00			KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - OUR LANGUAGE, 1924-1925	ESPNEWS: THE HOT LIST	HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:05		E.R. : - NOW WHAT?				17:05
17:30	THE HOT LIST			HEADLINE NEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	17:30
18:00	PGA TOUR - BUICK INVITATIONAL: FIRST ROUND (JIP)	HEADLINE NEWS	KEN BURNS' HISTORY OF JAZZ - THE TRUE WELCOME, 1929-1934	TODAY		18:00
18:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO			AIR FORCE TV NEWS	18:30
19:00			HORATIO HORNBLOWER (01', YR. 1&2) : - THE DUEL		LESTER HOLT LIVE	19:00
19:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN				19:30
20:00	ESPNEWS			SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	20:00
20:30	ESPNEWS	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	20:30
21:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - ACC: WAKE FOREST @ CLEMSON	4 QTRS	ROCKET POWER : - ROCKET REPAIRS	TELETUBBIES : - IRISH DANCING	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	21:00
21:30		NHL - COLORADO AVALANCHE @ ST. LOUIS BLUES	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS	WHEEL OF FORTUNE	CBS EVENING NEWS	21:30
22:00			THE SIMPSONS : - KRUSTY GETS BUSTED	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	CNBC: THE NEWS	22:00
22:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - HAPPY ANNIVERSARY			22:30
23:00	COLLEGE BASKETBALL - CUSA: LOUISVILLE @ CHARLOTTE		CHARMED : - CAT HOUSE	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW	HANNITY & COLMES	23:00